

# Halloween



October 31 is Halloween and it's celebrated in many countries around the world. What are the origins of this spooky day and how do people celebrate today? Read the article and find out.

## 1. Match the words with the definitions.

a fancy dress costume    Irish    to dress up    to carve    a tradition    the origin  
a pumpkin    a harvest    a lantern    a skull

Special clothes you wear to look like somebody or something else, often at a party

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A belief or way of doing something that people have followed for many years

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The beginning or cause of something

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The time of year when fruit and vegetables are collected on farms

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People or things that come from Ireland

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An orange vegetable that can be as big as a football

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A kind of lamp that has a light, such as a candle, inside a container

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To make something by cutting into it

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To wear special clothes

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The bones of the head

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When you think of Halloween, you probably think of pumpkin lanterns, fancy-dress costumes and children asking for sweets. And if you think of a country that celebrates Halloween, you probably think of the United States first. Americans and Canadians have adopted Halloween in a big way, but did you know that Halloween traditions actually come from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales?

**2. Put the words in the correct form of PAST SIMPLE.**

**The origins of Halloween**

The Celts \_\_\_\_\_ (be) people who \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and they \_\_\_\_\_ (celebrate) a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because that \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the end of summer and harvest time (which was associated with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which they \_\_\_\_\_ (associate) with death). Have you ever wondered why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

Samhain was the time for ghosts to return to earth for a day. People \_\_\_\_\_ (light) a big fire, \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) special clothes made of animal skin and \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) to be safe from the ghosts and the winter.

In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. When many Irish people \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to live in America in the 1800s, they \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) their Halloween traditions with them and Halloween \_\_\_\_\_ (become) popular throughout the country.

**3. a) Put the sentences in the correct order.**

**Pumpkin lanterns**

Irish people who came to live in the United States found pumpkins much easier to carve, and the tradition became the one we see today.

They remove the inside of the pumpkin, cut shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth and place a candle in the empty pumpkin to make a scary face.

This tradition came from the Celts, who carved faces into vegetables like turnips and potatoes to scare the ghosts and make them go away.

Many people make pumpkin lanterns to decorate their homes at Halloween.

**3. b) Ask your partner questions about their text and write down the answers.**

1. What do children ask their neighbours for?
2. What did the Celtic people do ancient Britain?
3. Who brought trick-or-treating to America?
4. Is trick-or-treating still popular? How do you know?

**4. a) Fill in the missing words.**

**Halloween costumes**

popular monsters neighbours Celts came dark Halloween North  
were costumes This century more hoped

People of all ages dress up on \_\_\_\_\_. In the UK some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ costumes include witches, vampires, ghosts, skeletons, zombies and \_\_\_\_\_. We can trace this tradition back to the \_\_\_\_\_, who were afraid of the ghosts that \_\_\_\_\_ on Samhain. If they went outside after \_\_\_\_\_, they covered their faces with masks. They \_\_\_\_\_ any ghosts they met would think they \_\_\_\_\_ ghosts too and would leave them alone.

\_\_\_\_\_ Americans wear all kinds of Halloween \_\_\_\_\_ and not just scary things like witches and ghosts. \_\_\_\_\_ is because in the late 19th \_\_\_\_\_, people tried to make Halloween less about ghosts and \_\_\_\_\_ about celebrating the season with a party for \_\_\_\_\_ and family.

**4. b) Change with your partner and correct his mistakes.**

**5. Kahoot.it – Questions about Halloween.**

**6. Kahoot.it – Truth or False**